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May 9, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Utility Patent Application
Inventors: Duane Kido, et al.
Title: Onion Harvester With Leaf Topper
Serial No: 10/815,470
Examiner: Mammen, Nathan Scott
Date Filed: March 31, 2004
Docket No: 3214

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed for the subject utility patent application:

- 1) Response To Examiner's Action Mailed February 7, 2005, including separate sheets showing amendments of Claims;
- 2) Check for \$ 225 for 2 independent claims over 3; and
- 3) Return postcard.

plus an additional total claim.

Dated: 5/9/05

Respectfully submitted,

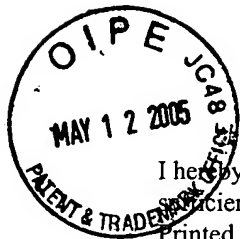
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to withdraw any additional required fees, or credit overpayment, to Account 502236
Signed Barbara S. Pedersen
of Pedersen and Company, PLLC

Barbara S. Pedersen
Ken J. Pedersen, Registration No. 29,689
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Certification of First Class Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Name: Barbara S. Pedersen
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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 3214

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): Duane Kido, et al

SERIAL NO.: 10/815,470

GROUP ART UNIT: 3671

FILED: March 31, 2005

EXAMINER: Mammen, Nathan Scott

SUBJECT: Onion Harvester With Leaf Topper

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION MAILED FEBRUARY 7, 2005

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed February 7, 2005, please enter the following amendments and remarks of record.

AMENDMENTS

Description

Please amend the paragraph starting at the bottom of page 10 and extending through the middle of page 11, as follows:

In the preferred embodiment, the cutting station 24, 224 comprises two grabbing blades 52 and one cutting blade 54, however other combinations and designs of grabbing and/or cutting blades may be used. Preferably, the grabbing blades 52 are circular in shape, with serrated edges/teeth that may either be straight or curved and inclined at various angles. The serrated edges/teeth help move the leaf tops 102 past the cutting blade 54. Preferably, the cutting blade 54 is also circular in shape with a sharp edge. In the preferred embodiment, the grabbing blades 52 are placed co-axially, one above the other, with a spaced apart relationship. Preferably, the cutting blade 54 is positioned laterally and between the grabbing blades 52, as shown in Figure 7. As shown in Figure 8, the onion bulbs 101 move above the blades preferably riding on rotating caps 56, the leafy portions 102 are grabbed by the grabbing blades 52 and the cutting blade 54 slices the leafy portions 102 from the bulbs 101 at the neck (part of the onion where the leafy portion attaches to the bulb). Caps 56 are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 as rounded caps. The leafy portion 102 then falls to a waste removal that distributes the leafy portions 102 to the ground, and the bulb 101 falls into the final elevation mechanism 26, 226 for elevation by conventional methods to the post-inspection station 28, 228. The inventor envisions a person or people next to the post-inspection station 28, 228 to check the onions 100 for damage or incomplete topping. The onion bulbs 101 may then be collected by a truck driving adjacent to the harvester 10, or in an alternative embodiment (see Figure 2) the onions 100 are moved by a conveyer 7 to a depository 9, wherein a person holds a bag under the depository 9 for collection of the onion bulbs 101. Other conventional methods of collection may be used for the collection or “final handling” of the onion bulbs 101.